



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q67986

Mitsuru TAMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/040,333

Group Art Unit: 1743-1764

Confirmation No.: 3288

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: January 9, 2002

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING AGGLOMERATES

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

Japanese Patent Abstract No. 10036447, published February 10, 1998;

European Patent No. 0 264,055, published April 10, 1988;

Soviet Union Patent No. 996856, published February 15, 1983;

Soviet Union Patent No. 1693366, published November 23, 1991;

U.S. Patent No. 4,046,005, issued September 6, 1977; and

Japanese Patent Abstract No. 63101711, published May 6, 1988.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/040,333

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

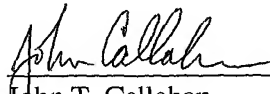
The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/040,333

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 14, 2003

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
Sheet 1 of 1				Application Number	10/040,333
				Confirmation Number	3288
				Filing Date	January 09, 2002
				First Named Inventor	Mitsuru TAMURA
				Art Unit	1713
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	Q67986

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 4,046,005		09/06/1977	Goroski

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		JP	10036447		02/10/1998	Kunihide	
		JP	0 264 055		04/10/1988	Murakami et al.	
		SU	996856		02/15/1983		No
		SU	1693366		11/23/1991		No
		JP	63101711		05/06/1988	Shigeki	

## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 4427

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

28-08-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
JP 10036447	A	10-02-1998	JP	3313030 B2	12-08-2002
EP 0264055	A	20-04-1988	JP EP	63091534 A 0264055 A2	22-04-1988 20-04-1988
SU 996856	A	15-02-1983	SU	996856 A1	15-02-1983
SU 1693366	A	23-11-1991	SU	1693366 A1	23-11-1991
US 4046005	A	06-09-1977	NONE		
JP 63101711	A	06-05-1988	NONE		